(a) whether it is a fact that despite constitutional provisions prohibiting child labour in hazardous industries, and other legislations regulating this evil practice children continue to work in hazardous industries like glass industry, balloon factories, fireworks, match factories, slate pencil industries and carpet industries; and

(b) if so, what further steps Government have taken to prohibit child labour in such hazardous industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) The employment of children below the age of 14 years is banned in factories, mines and in various hazardous occupations. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 specifies, in the Schedule thereto, occupations and processes in which a child below the age of 14 years cannot be employed or permitted to work. However, child labour persists in various employments basically on account of various socio-economic factors.

Apart from stricter enforcement of laws pertaining to child labour, other steps being undertaken include *inter alia* projects for rehabilitation in predominent areas of child labour through establishment of special programme for education, nutrition, health care, vocational training, etc.

Inquiry into police excesses on students

572. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered an inquiry in the police excesses in brutally lathi charging the students outside the former Prime Minister's residence and outside Police Commissioner's office in New Delhi on September 18-19, 1990; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and if not, the reasons for not conducting the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) On 18th September, 1990 about 900 students assembled at Gole Methi Chowk to stage a demonstration against the government's decision to implement the Mandal Commission Report. They tried to break the police cordon and proceed towards the Prime Minister's House. They also pelted stones on the police. The police had to use tear gas and resort to mild lathi charge to contain them.

On 19th September, 1990 about 2000 students assembled outside the Police Headquarters to protest against the police action on the students at Gole Methi Chowk on the previous day. The agitating students raised provocative slogans. Repeated pleas of the Police to the students to remain peaceful had no effect. The students tried to barge into the Police Headquarters by breaking the Police cordon. They also indulged in brick-batting. The Police tried to disperse them by throwing water through water jets but the students continued pelting stones. The police was constrained to use tear gas and mild lathi charge to disperse them. The students damaged buses and government vehicles. They also tried to set on fire two DTC buses.

The Police acted with restraint on 18th September as well as on 19th September and used minimum force and that too under grave provocation. No enquiry into these incidents was, therefore, considered necessary.

Action Plan to restore normalcy in Punjab

573. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an action plan to restore normalcy in Punjab has been formulated